

Is Smoking a Sin?

Smoking became known to the civilized world about 1518 A.D. when the tobacco plant was brought to Spain from the Indies. From there it went to France where it was accepted by the Queen Catherine de Medici. After her death the use of tobacco was forbidden by severe laws as being dangerous to the national health. It was first taken to England by Sir Francis Drake in 1586. It was later banished from England and all of Europe for some time. In 1624 Pope Urban the Eighth inflicted corporal punishment and excommunication on all who used it. In 1635 it was again forbidden in France under penalty of imprisonment and public whipping. Periodically from then on various laws for and against it were passed in France. In America, until a couple of generations or so ago, very few used tobacco. Even as late as our present generation most women would not marry men who used it. But today it is glorified as the god of American pleasure and it is becoming difficult to find men or women who do not use it in some form or another. In 1949, 400 billion cigarettes were used in America alone, besides tobacco in other forms. It is popular for preachers and church members to go about using it, and men who raise a voice against it are labeled old-fashioned, out of date, and religious cranks.

Be that as it may, we must stick by true Christian principles. It cannot glorify God, as Christians are commanded to do in their bodies and spirits ([1 Cor. 6:19-20](#)). It defiles their bodies, and God promises to destroy those who defile His temple, the human bodies ([1 Cor. 3:16-17](#)). It is a money-wasting habit. Men must satisfy their lust even at the expense of bread, proper clothes, and shelter for the family. It is an infringement on the rights of others who should not be forced to constantly breathe smoke wherever they go ([Gal. 5:14](#)). It is a wrong example to set before sinners ([Mt. 5:16](#)). It is a filthy habit and Christians are commanded to cleanse themselves “of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” ([2 Cor. 7:1](#)). It is a filthy and unclean habit and is one of the works of the flesh under the word “uncleanness” ([Gal. 5:19-21](#)). It is a bad habit and holds one in bondage to sin ([Rom. 6:12-23](#)).